

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 004320
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 /012 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GPALAZZOLO:BABS
APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS
ARA/PPC:MYOHN
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P 080139Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 004320

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, APER (BRITTON, THEODORE R., JR.)

SUBJECT: NEWS BRIEFING ON AMBASSADOR BRITTON

REF: STATE 2514

1. FOLLOWING PORTION OF TRANSCRIPT OF DEPT NOON BRIEFING
(1-6-77) DEALS WITH SUBJECT OF PRESS ARTICLE ON AMBASSADOR
BRITTON (REFTEL). IT IS TRANSMITTED FYI.

2. BEGIN TRANSCRIPT:

(Q) ON STILL ANOTHER SUBJECT, IF WE ARE FINISHED WITH THAT
ONE, IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATING FOR INCOMPETENCE
OUR AMBASSADOR TO BARBADOS?

(A) I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY -- THERE IS NO CURRENT -- I THINK
THE TERM OUGHT TO BE -- INSPECTION. WE NORMALLY DO NOT
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INVESTIGATE MISSIONS. WE HAVE AN INSPECTION CORPS THAT
INSPECTS OR MAKES MANAGEMENT EVALUATIONS. BUT I AM NOT
AWARE OF ANY CURRENT INSPECTION GOING ON. THERE WAS ONE A
YEAR AGO, AND THERE WAS A FOLLOW-UP IN BARBADOS THIS FALL.

(Q) BUT YOU ARE AWARE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED
REPORTS THAT HE IS BEING INVESTIGATED FOR INCOMPETENCE.

YOU ARE SAYING, THEN, THAT IS NOT CORRECT.

(A) I CHECKED WITH THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, AND THEY GAVE ME THE INFORMATION THAT I JUST PROVIDED YOU.

(Q) I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A MORE SPECIFIC ANSWER THAN THAT. THE REPORT SAID THAT AN INVESTIGATION IS BEING MADE AND THAT THE MAN IS INCOMPETENT. IS THAT TRUE -- IS THAT FALSE ON BOTH COUNTS? IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, THAT THERE IS NO INSPECTION BEING MADE AND THE MAN IS NOT INCOMPETENT?

(A) ANY READING OF WHAT I SAID, MURREY, WOULD NOT LEAD YOU TO SAY THAT. MAYBE WE COULD HAVE THE COURT REPORTER READ BACK MY ANSWER TO JIM.

(Q) ALL RIGHT.

(A) WOULD YOU READ THAT BACK, PLEASE, MY ANSWER TO MR. ANDERSON'S QUESTION? (THE COURT REPORTER READ BACK THE PORTION REFERRED TO.)

(Q) YOU SAY YOU ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY CURRENT INSPECTION GOING ON. WHAT I AM ASKING YOU IS, IS THERE ANY CURRENT INSPECTION GOING ON?

(A) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE TOLD ME THAT THERE WAS AN INSPECTION A YEAR AGO AND THERE WAS ANOTHER INSPECTION, UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH THEY DESCRIBED AS A MANAGEMENT EVALUATION THIS FALL, AND THAT IS IT.

(Q) AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS SATISFIED WITH THE OPERATION OF THAT OFFICE?

(A) WE DO NOT DISCUSS THE CONTENTS OF FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION REPORTS.

(Q) LET'S GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTIONS AND STOP USING SEMANTIC CIRCUMLOCUTIONS HERE.

(A) IT IS NOT SEMANTIC. INSPECTION REPORTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND WE DO NOT DISCUSS THEM.

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(Q) AND THERE IS NO CURRENT ACTION GOING ON CONCERNING THE EMBASSY IN BARBADOS. IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING?

(A) THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

(Q) DOES THAT INDICATE THEN THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS SATISFIED WITH THE OPERATION OF THE EMBASSY IN BARBADOS?

(A) IT DOES NOT INDICATE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

(Q) BOB, WHEN YOU SAID THAT WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A MANAGEMENT EVALUATION, THAT WAS THE SECOND INSPECTION?

(A) YES.

(Q) HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE FIRST INSPECTION?

(A) THE FIRST INSPECTION WAS -- AS YOU KNOW -- FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS ARE INSPECTED ON A REGULAR ROUTINE BASIS. AND THERE WERE, AS I UNDERSTAND, AFTER THAT INSPECTION, UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT NECESSARILY RELATED TO IT, BUT THERE WERE SOME GRIEVANCES FILED BY OFFICERS WHO HAD SERVED IN BRIDGETOWN, AND AS A RESULT OF THOSE GRIEVANCES THIS SECOND INSPECTION WAS CONDUCTED.

(Q) EXCUSE ME, YOU COVERED A LOT OF GROUND. THE GRIEVANCES WERE THE RESULT -- IN OTHER WORDS, I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SECOND INSPECTION WAS A PERIODIC ONE.

(A) NO, THE FIRST ONE WAS A PERIODIC.

(Q) THE FIRST ONE WAS A PERIODIC.

(A) A YEAR AGO.

(Q) A YEAR AGO. AFTER THAT INSPECTION, YOU RECEIVED SOME GRIEVANCES -- OR IN THE COURSE OF IT.

(A) NOT RELATED, BUT THERE WERE SOME GRIEVANCES SUBSEQUENT TO THE FIRST INSPECTION.

(Q) AND THAT IS WHAT OCCASIONED A REVIEW OR ANOTHER INSPECTION.

(A) AT LEAST PARTIALLY. CERTAINLY IT WAS A FACTOR.

(Q) WHEN WAS THAT? WHEN WAS THE FOLLOW-UP?

(A) I THINK IT WAS IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER. I THINK IT WAS IN NOVEMBER.

(Q) THAT IS QUITE RECENT.

(A) THAT IS RIGHT.

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(Q) WHEN YOU SAID THERE WAS NO CURRENT INSPECTION, I DON'T --

(A) CURRENT MEANS TODAY, DOES IT NOT? THERE WAS A MANAGEMENT EVALUATION, AND IT ENDED. I TAKE CURRENT TO MEAN SOMETHING STILL GOING ON.

(Q) WHEN YOU STARTED OUT HERE, THAT IS WHY I AM TALKING HERE ABOUT CIRCUMLOCUTION. YOU STARTED OUT SAYING THERE WAS AN INSPECTION A YEAR AGO, AND THERE WAS A FOLLOW-UP INQUIRY MADE, MAKING IT SOUND AS THOUGH IT IS ALL IN THE PAST. THERE IS NO CURRENT PROBLEM. EVERYTHING IS GOING ALONG VERY HAPPILY AND SATISFACTORILY.

(A) I AM NOT GOING TO ASK THE COURT REPORTER TO REREAD MY REPLY, MURREY, BUT I THINK YOU ARE EITHER TRYING TO DRAW ME INTO ANSWERS THAT I AM NOT PREPARED TO GIVE OR YOU ARE TRYING TO READ SOMETHING THAT THE RECORD WILL NOT SHOW. AND I SUGGEST YOU LOOK AT THE RECORD AFTER THE BRIEFING.

(Q) I AM TRYING TO PIN DOWN AS MUCH AS I CAN THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION CONCERNING WHAT WAS DONE THERE, WHEN IT WAS DONE.

(A) THOSE QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED.

(Q) WE ARE MOVING UP ON THEM, WE ARE GETTING A LITTLE MORE PRECISE AS WE GO ALONG HERE. NOW, THE MANAGEMENT INSPECTION WAS COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER. WHEN IN NOVEMBER?

(A) I DO NOT HAVE THE DATE, MURREY.

(Q) THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN SAY ABOUT THE MANAGEMENT EVALUATION?

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(A) NO.

(Q) BOB, WERE THEY THE SORT OF GRIEVANCES THAT ONE NORMALLY HEARS FROM DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS -- OR WAS THERE SOMETHING --

(A) I DO NOT KNOW THAT WE "NORMALLY" HAVE GRIEVANCES FROM MISSIONS. BUT THE PROBLEM WITH THE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE IS THAT THE GRIEVANCES ARE PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION. AND IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO DISCUSS GRIEVANCES WHICH PRESENTLY ARE BEING HEARD BY THE GRIEVANCE BOARD.

(Q) ALL RIGHT, SO EVEN THOUGH THE TROOP WAS THERE, OR THE "TEAM" WAS THERE (WHATEVER IT IS) IN NOVEMBER, THE

GRIEVANCES ARE STILL BEING EVALUATED. THEY ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

(A) THAT IS RIGHT.

(Q) SO YOU DO HAVE SOMETHING CURRENT GOING ON: AN EVALUATION OF GRIEVANCES.

(A) OF GRIEVANCES, --

(Q) RIGHT.

(Q) BOB, I AM A LITTLE CONFUSED HERE. ARE YOU -- DO YOU HAVE GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE AMBASSADOR?

(Q) YES, WE ARE MOVING UP ON THIS.

(A) I CANNOT GO INTO THE NATURE OF THE GRIEVANCES.

(Q) BOB, IS THE AMBASSADOR ON STATION?

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(A) YES.

(Q) WILL HE, ROUTINELY, SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION?

(A) YES.

(Q) DO YOU EXPECT IT WILL BE ACCEPTED?

(A) YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

(Q) BOB, I AM A LITTLE CONFUSED. YOU SAID -- I THINK YOU WERE ASKED IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT PERFORMANCE OF THE EMBASSY -- AND YOU SAID YOUR ANSWERS, PREVIOUSLY, DON'T INDICATE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

ARE YOU NOT WILLING TO GIVE A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TO THE AMBASSADOR OF BARBADOS?

-

(A) YES, WE WOULD.

(Q) SO YOU ARE SATISFIED WITH HIS PERFORMANCE? OTHERWISE, YOU WOULDN'T BE WILLING TO GIVE A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

(A) (ON BACKGROUND) IF THE AMBASSADOR IS STILL THERE, BY IMPLICATION, THERE IS CONFIDENCE. YES. (END BACKGROUND)

(Q) THERE WAS A STORY IN THE WASHINGTON POST THAT SAID THAT THIS AMBASSADOR WAS TOTALLY INCOMPETENT -- IT TRIED

TO LIST ALLEGATIONS AS TO WHY THIS WAS SO -- THAT HE
CREATED AN AID LIAISON OFFICE THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN
THERE -- A USIA MISSION THAT WAS UNNECESSARY.

DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY SPECIFICS, OR ANY GENERAL
STATEMENT TO MAKE ABOUT THE ARTICLE ITSELF?
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(A) THE ARTICLE DID TALK ABOUT CHARGES MADE AGAINST THE
AMBASSADOR, AND THERE HAVE BEEN SOME GRIEVANCES, AS I SAID,
FILED BY CERTAIN OFFICERS WHO SERVED IN BRIDGETOWN; AND
THESE ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. SO THAT ASPECT OF THE
ARTICLE THAT DEALS WITH THOSE CHARGES -- BECAUSE THE
GRIEVANCES ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION -- WE CANNOT COM-
MENT ON THEM.

I AM TOLD BY AID THAT THE AID DECISION TO PUT AN OFFICE IN
THERE TO FOLLOW THE WORK OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
WHICH IS LOCATED THERE -- WAS TAKEN, OR WAS IN PROCESS
BEFORE THE AMBASSADOR ARRIVED THERE.

(Q) WHAT ABOUT USIA?

(A) I WILL HAVE TO CHECK THAT.

(Q) BOB, I AM SORRY, BUT A GRIEVANCE -- I KNOW YOU DON'T
WANT TO GET INTO THE CASE. I AM NOT TRYING TO DRAW YOU
INTO IT. BUT "GRIEVANCE" IN COMMON LABOR TERMINOLOGY
REFERS TO SOMETHING AFFECTING THE EMPLOYEES.

(A) YES.

(Q) BUT THESE KINDS OF THINGS ARE THINGS THAT WOULD NOR-
MALLY IMPINGE ON ONE'S WORKING CONDITIONS: PAY -- OR, YOU
KNOW, WHETHER THERE IS PROPER VENTILATION IN THE WORKING
AREA -- WOULD PEOPLE FILE GRIEVANCES ABOUT THE WAY AN
EMBASSY IS DOING ITS JOB? IS THAT --

IF THERE IS SUCH A THING, WOULD THAT BE CALLED A "GRIEV-
ANCE?" IS THAT THE WORD FOR IT? BECAUSE "GRIEVANCE" TO
ME MEANS A LABOR -- A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE WAY ONE'S JOB
MEANS A LABOR -- A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE WAY ONE'S JOB
SITUATION IS.

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(A) (ON BACKGROUND) I THINK, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE
CURRENT --

(Q) YES.

(A) -- I THINK THAT IS THE CORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF A
GRIEVANCE -- AS I UNDERSTAND IT. (END BACKGROUND)

(Q) THIS ARTICLE SAID THAT, I THINK, THESE EMPLOYEES WERE
FORCED OUT OF THE EMBASSY BY THE AMBASSADOR

(A) I AM JUST NOT ABLE TO COMMENT ON THAT.

(Q) IF IT SAYS IN THEIR RECORD THAT THEY ARE GRIEVING --
IT GOES TO ONE'S OWN RECORD?

(A) THAT IS CORRECT. END TRANSCRIPT.
KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: n/a
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